

BOROUGH OF CALNE.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR ENDING

31st. DECEMBER

- 1955 -

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Chippenham and Malmesbury, and the Rural Districts of Calne & Chippenham and Malmesbury.

(b) SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

T.V. Oliver, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

who in addition holds the post of Borough Surveyor.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.
(and Assistant to the Borough Surveyor)

C.C. Dowding, Cert. S.I.E.B., Meat & Other Foods
Cert. R.S.I.

(c) The two Committees of the Town Council dealing directly with Public Health matters are:-

- (i) Health, Housing and Town Planning Committee
and
(ii) Water & Sewerage Committee.

TO:- The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Calne Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1955.

Vital Statistics and the incidence of Infectious Disease, with comments thereon, will be found in subsequent pages of this report.

The health of the community was satisfactory during the year. Large quantities of meat and meat products are produced within the Borough, and it is gratifying to note that once more no cases of food poisoning have been attributed thereto during the year under review.

The following notes on general health with present tendencies will be of interest to the Council. The principal causes of adult mortality are vascular lesions of the nervous system, coronary disease and cancer. Lung cancer, especially in the male, has occasioned much investigation and comment in both the medical and national press.

The death rate of infants under one year has been nearly halved in less than 20 years. Further reduction will require intensive investigation into the causes of prematurity and congenital malformations.

The population is growing more elderly, due principally to the increase in the proportion of those aged 65 years and over. Elderly women are substantially more numerous than men.

Immunisation against the major infectious diseases still requires emphasis. The Minister of Health, in his report for the year 1954 states that only 34.5% of live births are vaccinated against Smallpox. Modern technique in the control of smallpox relies on early diagnosis and isolation, combined with vaccination of all persons known to be contacts. Present day air travel brings the population into close temporal relationship with parts of the world in which smallpox is still endemic. For adequate protection of the population, at least 75% of infants should be vaccinated.

The decreasing incidence and low mortality of Diphtheria should not be viewed with complacency. The only safeguard against a return of Diphtheria is the maintenance of a high level of immunisation.

The severity of measles has declined in recent years. The early infectiousness makes application of preventive measures practically useless. The complications of measles may be dangerous, especially in early life.

Although the number of notified cases of Bacillary Dysentery tends to increase, the severity of the disease is fortunately not great. Infection is rarely conveyed by food, direct or indirect personal contact is mainly responsible. Three quarters of notifications relate to children under 15 years of age; those of 4 years and under are especially liable to infection. Like other communicable infections of the intestinal tract, Dysentery has an underground organisation of symptomless excretors only discovered during the bacteriological investigation of an outbreak. Prevention is simple, cleanliness of body and clothing, scrupulous personal hygiene and above all washing of hands after a visit to the toilet.

The made up meat dish is the principal cause of food poisoning, due to the usual lapse of time between its preparation and eventual consumption. Prompt attention to minor injuries and infections on the hands of food handlers and strict attention to their cleanliness will prevent most outbreaks.

During the last six years, the mortality from Tuberculosis has fallen by 64%; nevertheless the decline in the number of notifications of respiratory tuberculosis has not been so great. Tuberculosis is still a serious problem, as more cases come to be known and more patients, due to improved methods of treatment, survive to constitute a reservoir and a source of infection.

Whooping Cough principally affects children under school age when it can be a dangerous disease. Girls are more commonly affected than boys.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis has commenced during the preparation of this report and it is hoped that this preventive measure will become a regular feature in future.

There is a tendency for accidents in the home to increase. Most fatal domestic accidents occur at the two extremes of life; 73% are at ages 65 and over.

Statistics supplied by the National Blood Transfusion Service confirm that two public sessions, at which 200 donors attended, were held in the Borough during 1955. Although these results are excellent, the need for blood continues to increase. During the year, the use of blood increased by 2000 in S.W. England. Recent work on the treatment of severe post-partum haemorrhage by massive transfusion is likely to call for further increases. The public can be assured that giving of blood has no ill-effect on any normally healthy person.

The positive good health enjoyed by the population nowadays is taken for granted, and it is not sufficiently realised that this is in part due to the health legislation of the last hundred years. During this period the population has almost doubled and the more serious infectious diseases have become practically non-existent. Nevertheless it should be appreciated that a healthy environment for all classes of the community can only be maintained and improved by constant vigilance.

I am grateful to Mr. Oliver and the staff of the Council for their assistance in the preparation of this report and their co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	1276
Population	6190
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1955 according to the Rate Book	1920
Rateable Value	£39,678
(at 1.4.55)	
Sum represented by the Penny Rate (1954/55)	£158.8.2.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	52	49	101
Illegitimate	3	2	5
Total Live Births.	55	51	106

Comparative Rate for England & Wales 15.0 per 1000
of the population.

The Birth Rate for the year is slightly lower than the rate for 1954 which was estimated to be 18.8 per 1000 of the population

STILL BIRTHS.

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	--	--	--
Total Still Births.	--	1	1

Rate per 1000 total live & still births. . 9.4

DEATHS.

	<u>Male</u> 28	<u>Female</u> 30	<u>Total</u> 58
Death Rate for the Borough		9.3	per 1000 of the population.
Comparative Rate for England & Wales	11.7		per 1000 of the population.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>CAUSES OF DEATH.</u>			
Tuberculosis respiratory.	-	-	-
Tuberculosis other	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-	-	-
" " Lung, bronchus	2	-	2
" " Breast	-	-	-
" " Uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	4	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	2	-	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	8	11
Coronary disease angina	-	2	2
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
Other heart disease	7	9	16
Other circulatory disease	2	-	2
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis & nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined & ill-defined diseases	7	4	11
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	2	2
Homicide & operations of war.	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES.	28	30	58

The Death Rate for the Borough is lower this year as compared with 1954 when it was 11.01 per 1000 of the population. Although deaths due to heart disease figure prominently in this table, cancer, as a cause of death shows a numerical decrease as compared with the previous year.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

Table "A"

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:-	2	-	2

Infant Mortality Rates:-

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age
per 1000 live births 18.8

Comparative Rate for England & Wales . 24.9

No deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age were
recorded during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases notified during 1955 as compared with the years, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954.

<u>DISEASE</u>	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	5	5	1	1	11	11	1	1	4	4	2	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	6	6	24	24	39	39	52	52	52	52	39	39	4	4
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	105	105	-	-	46	46	2	2	199	199	3	3	13	13
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	2	2	-	-	1	1	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	119	119	28	28	98	98	61	61	260	260	45	45	2020	

"a" = Numbers originally notified.

"b" = Final numbers after correction.

Notification of Infectious Disease was the lowest recorded since 1949.

The one case of Poliomyelitis notified was of the non-paralytic type. Investigations did not reveal any facts indicating probable source of infection. The patient made a good recovery, and no secondary cases were reported.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Distribution according to age
Notifications received during 1955 - Corrected Figures.

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Over 65	Age Unknown	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac.Poliomyelitis (Non Paralytic)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS:-	2	10	8	-	-	-	-	-	20

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows new cases of Tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during 1955 together with the comparative figures for the years 1948 to 1954.

YEAR	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1948	4	-	4
1949	-	-	-
1950	2	-	2
1951	4	-	4
1952	4	-	4
1953	4	-	4
1954	2	1	3
1955	1	-	1

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY
DURING 1955 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

Only one case of tuberculosis, which was of the pulmonary type, was notified during the year. This was a male aged 75.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during 1955.

Notified cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register at the end of 1955 were as follows:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	15	10	25
Non-Pulmonary	3	2	5
TOTAL	18	12	30.

Although the number of cases of tuberculosis notified year by year are, by comparison with other parts of the country, small, it should be noted that a healthy environment with good housing conditions for all classes of the community are important factors in the prevention of this serious disease.

LEGISLATION.

During 1955 the following were issued by the various Ministries of the Central Government. The most important being the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. The latter was laid before Parliament on the 21st December, 1955 and came into operation on the 1st January, 1956.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No.2) Order, 1955.

The Transfer of Functions (Food & Drugs) Order, 1955.

The Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 replace Sec. 13 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 and add a number of new provisions in respect of the hygienic handling of food and the construction and maintenance of premises, stalls, vehicles etc. where food is handled.

The regulations lay down requirements regarding the cleanliness of food premises and stalls etc. and of apparatus and equipment; the hygienic handling of food, the cleanliness of persons engaged in the handling of food and of their clothing.

Persons suffering from or being carriers of certain infections will receive special supervision from the Public Health Department.

The administration of this particular legislation will entail increased sanitary supervision.

The National Assistance Act, 1948

Sec. 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

During the year it was found necessary to effect the compulsory removal of one female to hospital under the provisions of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. Statutory action was only taken after every attempt to persuade the person to enter hospital voluntarily had failed.

Ministry of Housing & Local Government Circular 55/54.
Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954.

In the Sanitary Inspector's Report of 28th. March, 1955, a resume' was given to the Health, Housing & Town Planning Committee of the information required by the Minister before August, 1955.

In order to obtain the necessary information upon which to base an accurate report, some 200 houses, in which might be considered the worst areas, had been classified, but not all of them were found to be sub-standard within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

In conjunction with the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, an inspection was carried out of all properties in the Borough considered suitable for representation to the Committee for action under the provisions of the above Act.

On 25th. July, 1955, a statement was presented to the Committee giving the addresses of 103 houses at that time considered to constitute the total problem, bearing in mind that other houses will also fall into this category from time to time. On this statement the Committee formulated the return required by the Minister.

Fifty nine properties were scheduled to be dealt with during the first five years, leaving forty four to be considered later. For the guidance of the Committee an assessment was made of the numbers and types of houses required as replacements during the first five years to rehouse the occupants of individually unfit houses.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following children received primary immunisations during 1955.

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
85	39	7	131

Total immunised child population as at 31.XII.55.

<u>Ages 0-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-14</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
306	895	1,201.

VACCINATION.

The following children were vaccinated during 1955:

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1-4</u>	<u>Ages 5-15</u>
96	4	7
<u>TOTAL 107</u>		

TO:- The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Calne Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1955.

The work of the Department falls into three broad classifications: (i) Housing, (ii) Food, and (iii) Environmental Hygiene, and during 1955 emphasis has been placed largely on (i) and (ii).

During the early months of the year the survey of houses was completed and a comprehensive report presented detailing the steps necessary to enable the Town Council to fulfil its obligations under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. In August a return was sent to the Ministry showing that 59 houses were sub-standard and it was proposed that these should be dealt with during the next five years. The Town Council formed a sub-committee to go into this question.

Meat and Food inspection has taken up a large proportion of the time of the individual Officers, both inside and outside normal office hours. No less than 12,224 animals have been inspected and the detailed figures contained in the report shows the incidence of disease which has been noted. The problem of Meat Inspection is not peculiar to Calne and during the year the Departmental Committee's Report on Slaughterhouses was published. The observation was made that some form of remuneration should be made by way of additional Exchequer Grants or by an inspection charge to ease the burden on the smaller Authorities. To date this recommendation has not been adopted and the Government would need special legislation to implement the proposal.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Health Committee, Dr. Broomhead and the members of my staff for the support they have given during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS V. OLIVER,
Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

REPORT.

Rainfall.

The rainfall is recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works, the reading being taken at 9.0 a.m. every day. From this information the following table has been compiled:-

MONTH	TOTAL RAINFALL INCHES	GREATEST FALL in 24 HOURS	NO. OF DAYS WITH .01 OR MORE RECORDED.
January	2.91	.87(10th)	18
February	1.65	.35(4th & 6th)	11
March	1.28	.34(25th)	8
April	.84	.20(7th)	9
May	4.92	.95(20th)	18
June	2.78	.88(3rd)	13
July	.74	.56(13th)	3
August	.36	.15(11th)	6
September	.74	.20(4th)	12
October	1.61	.43(5th)	8
November	2.81	.48(6th)	10
December	2.85	.45(29th)	21
	<hr/> 23.49		<hr/> 137

These figures compare with 34.15 total rainfall recorded last year and 1955 proved to be the driest since the gauge was installed in 1928.

The average rainfall for the previous 7 years was 33.59 inches.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Wet days	12	11	7	8	15	8	2	4	8	7	10	18
Rain days	6	0	1	1	3	5	1	2	4	1	0	3
Dry days	13	17	23	21	13	17	28	25	18	23	20	10

Two periods of absolute drought and two dry spell periods were recorded.

May proved to be the wettest month, August the driest, compared with November and April respectively in the previous year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Undertaking has been owned by the Town Council since 1947. The area served by the Calne Water Orders 1882 to 1938 includes the Municipal Borough and the Parish of Calne Without in the Rural District of Calne & Chippenham.

The supply is obtained from the Lower Greensand Springs at Calstone Wellington, about three miles to the South-East of the town in the Rural District of Calne & Chippenham.

The water is of good quality and non-plumbo solvent. It is chlorinated at source.

The water is brought to the Borough by 6" and 9" mains and thence is distributed throughout the town. The distribution mains vary in size from 2 - 6 inches and the total length is estimated to be 11.6 miles.

WATER SUPPLIES (Continued).

Mains have been laid to serve a new housing site at Broken Cross and provision has been made to supply a new housing estate now being laid out at Lickhill.

During 1955 steps were taken to improve the supply to the areas at higher level and to this end a new electrically driven pump was installed at the Waterworks. No real shortage of water was experienced as a result of the abnormally dry summer and such shortages as were felt were due mainly to pumping difficulties.

The Council is fully alive to its responsibilities but the present difficulties will not be fully overcome until a greater abstraction rate is obtained by the inclusion of more springs with increased storage capacity and additional pumping. All these matters are at the present time receiving consideration.

One major fracture of the mains occurred during the year - this being in Church Street, as a result of excavations during the laying of the Council's new outfall sewer. The 5" main was damaged and although this had been in service for some 70 years it is interesting to note that its condition was quite good.

During the year 36 samples of chlorinated water were taken for bacteriological examination and all proved satisfactory.

One sample was taken to ascertain the fluoride content of the water and the analysts reported "We have determined the fluorine in the sample of water sent to us. The amount present is small and of the order of 0.1 - 0.3 P.P.M. commonly found in this area, though there are of course exceptions. There is a growing body of expert dental opinion that a fluoride content of about 1 P.P.M. has a definite action in preventing caries in children."

Samples of water taken at the Intake were -	Lower Spring	8
	Main Spring	8
	Springs in	
	Bank	8

These samples occasionally showed some pollution with the coli aerogenes group. Only on three occasions was there very slight faecal pollution.

The last chemical report on a sample of the town supply is as follows:-

Appearance: clear, colourless.
Reaction : pH 7.0

	<u>Parts per million.</u>
Free Carbon Dioxide	46
Free and Saline Ammonia	less than 0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.036
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	13
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	21
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours)	0.23
Nitrite	Absent
Nitrogen in Nitrates	2.1
Total Solids	400
Loss on Ignition	25
Appearance on Ignition	Slight Charring
Hardness: Temporary	290
Permanent	33
	<u>323</u>
Lead and Copper	Absent

WATER SUPPLIES (Continued).

There are no street standpipes within the Borough and the number of houses served by well supply is less than a dozen, of these three are outside the normal service area for piped supply.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Practically the whole of the developed portion of the Borough is now sewered, although owing to difficulty in falls and isolation there will always be a few houses which have to rely upon septic tanks or earth closets.

The number of houses not connected to the main sewer is 94 or less than 5% of all those inhabited, about one half of this number are outside the drainage area. The construction of the new outfall sewer is now well advanced and when this is brought into full use the amount of surface water finding its way to the disposal works should be considerably reduced and thus help to ease the overloading which has been a major problem for some years.

During the year a new sludge drying bed was constructed.

The preparation of a comprehensive scheme to enlarge the sewage disposal works is well in hand and Tenders will be invited shortly.

Final Effluent from the Works. - Of the last sample of final effluent taken during the year the Analyst reports as follows:-

Appearance: Very pale yellow, brown granular sediment, slight earthy smell.

Reaction: pH 7.1

Parts per million.

Free and saline ammonia	2.1
Albuminoid ammonia	2.4
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	168
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	276
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours)	11.5
Nitrite	Very strong reaction
Nitrogen in Nitrite or Nitrate	19
Dissolved solids	860
Suspended solids	35
Total	895

Dissolved Oxygen absorbed after 5 days' incubation (B.O.D.)
14

This shows 80.85% purification with 33,000 gallons per hour going through the works.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

All refuse is collected weekly by direct labour, each householder placing his bin at the kerbside. This service has been maintained satisfactorily and without a single complaint during the year. Moreover, not one hour was lost through sickness or absenteeism.

The refuse tip is at Calne Low about 1 mile to the east of the town in worked out sandpits owned by Messrs. Bradley & Sons. The tip is sprayed with dressing during the summer months to preclude nuisance from insect pests. Rat infestation is dealt with by gassing or baiting as and when necessary.

The following table shows the cost of collection for House Refuse, Salvage and Kitchen Waste during the year:-

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL (Continued).

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Houso Refuso.</u>	<u>Salvago.</u>	<u>Kitchon Waste.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Running costs of Refuse Vehicle including Licences, Insurance, Depreciation, Protective Clothing, etc.	289 7 10	133 13 2	74 1 11	497 2 11
Gross Wages.	793 2 7	606 17 8	86 11 5	1486 11 8
Gross Total.	1082 10 5	740 10 10	160 13 4	1983 14 7
Credits.		673 4 1	236 3 1	909 7 2
	1082 10 5	67 6 9	75 9 9	1074 7 5
			(Credit)	

Number of domestic premises in the district - 1886.

Collection costs per house (nearest ½d.)

Gross ...	11/5½d.	7/10½d.	1/8½d.	£1. 1. 0½d.
Nett ...	11/5½d.	8½d.	9½d. (gain)	11/4½d.

These figures are taken to the end of the financial year 1955.

SALVAGE.

A weekly collection of Salvage has been in operation since 1940. The amount collected in 1955 is detailed in the table hereunder:-

	<u>Weight.</u>		<u>Value.</u>		
	Tons.	Cwt.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper.	110	5½	872	7	9
Black Scrap.	2	10	8	10	0
Non Ferrous Metals.	1	10	1	6	9
Textiles.		13½	16	15	0
Total.	114	18½	£898	19	6

KITCHEN WASTE.

There are 70 communal bins placed at strategic points throughout the district for the collection of Kitchen Waste which is sold in its raw state to National By-Products Ltd. and dry rendered in a solvent extraction plant at Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., By-Products factory in the Borough. The waste is converted into a black pudding and retailed by Messrs. Harris to local farmers.

The communal bins are brought in periodically and steam sterilised at the above plant by the kind co-operation of Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd.

The tonnage for the twelve months under review was 55 tons 15½ cwts. valued at £216. 2. 6.

The total value of all salvago for the year was £1115. 2. 0, or equivalent to a 7d. rate.

HOUSING.

In accordance with para. 4 of the Ministry of Health Circular 17/55 no full report on Housing is submitted. The following matters, however, have been noted, viz:-

HOUSING (Continued).

The capital works detailed below were commenced during the year:-

- (a) 28 Two bedroom Reema flats at Broken Cross.
- (b) New site layout for Lickhill Estate. Ministry approval has been given for 27 permanent houses to be erected on this site and approval has been sought to proceed to tender for 24 "Trusteel" houses during the coming year.

Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954.

The inspection of the district was completed and the programme for dealing with the sub-standard houses submitted to the Minister.

No applications were made for certificates of disrepair.

Housing Act, 1949 - Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Improvement Grants.

3 applications for grant were approved during the year.

Requisitioned Properties.

One dwelling which is divided into three flats is still requisitioned.

New Properties.

34 Traditional Council Houses on the Bryans Close Estate were completed.

7 new private enterprise houses and bungalows were completed making a total of 94 since 1945.

Sale of Council Houses.

9 council houses were sold to the tenants during the year.

Overcrowding.

Several cases of overcrowding were dealt with by the voluntary interchanging of council house tenancies arranged through the Housing Officer with the consent and encouragement of the Local Authority.

The number of applications for council houses was 260 showing an increase of 63 over the 1954 figure.

RODENT CONTROL: PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

For this purpose the Council employ a part-time operative. As usual the systematic treatment of sewers, refuse tip and other municipally owned property was carried out.

A few major and minor infestations were found and all were dealt with. Gassing has once again been employed with great success in connection with infestations at the refuse tip and also the River banks; whilst all other infestations were treated by Warfarin or prebaiting and poisoning.

Several large retail food stores as well as the Bacon Factory have standing contracts with commercial firms, subject to the over-riding supervision of the rodent operator and close co-operation has been maintained between all parties concerned.

The following is a summary of the year's work:-

RODENT CONTROL. (Continued).

Number of properties found to be infested:-

Major.	Minor.
28	15

of these 21 were notified by the occupiers.

The number of dwelling houses inspected	176
ditto business premises "	59
ditto agricultural "	11
ditto Local Authority "	5

The total number of re-visits other than initial inspections was 351.

The type of property in the district is as follows:-

Local Authority	5
Dwelling Houses	1920
Agricultural	11
Business and Industrial	209
Total	2145

RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

One firm is registered under the provisions of the above Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

One shop is licensed under the provisions of the above Act.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOOD.

Two slaughterhouses are now operating within the Borough. One serves the factory of Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Caino) Ltd., at which the meat inspection service is carried out by a part-time Veterinary Inspector who reports regularly to the Medical Officer of Health. The other slaughterhouse serves the local butchers and the butchers of several adjoining areas as well as supplying meat for Smithfield Meat Market, London. The meat inspection at this establishment is carried out by a qualified Meat Inspector who holds the examination in the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods of the Royal Society of Health.

Two major improvements to the premises have been made during the year - fluorescent strip lighting having been introduced, whilst the floor of the slaughterhall has been relaid with a non-slip finish containing carborundum granules.

The number of animals returned under the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947 and the amounts condemned is herewith tabulated in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 17/55.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS (Continued).

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>Excluding</u> <u>Cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep</u> and <u>Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number Killed.	358	60	7737	1346	2723
Number Inspected.	358	60	7737	1346	2723
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	37	5	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	190	21	60	97	383
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	53.07% H	35%	1.25%	7.5%	14.2%
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	1	2	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	13	14	-	-	78
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	3.6%	25%	.02%	-	2.8%

H This figure would appear to be high, this is due to the abnormal number of livers found to be affected with "Distoma Hepaticum."

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOOD (Continued).

The following foodstuffs (other than home killed meat) were also condemned:-

Fruit	-	133 tins.	Vegetables	-	123 tins.
Meat	-	59 tins.	Fish	-	16 tins.
Soup	-	16 tins.	Milk and cream-	-	20 tins.
Preserves	-	10 tins.			

156 lbs. of imported beef.

There are two holders of game licences.

Fish.

There are two retailers of fresh fish and two fried fish establishments in the district. Most of the fresh fish is delivered to the district in refrigerated vans and largely owing to this no fish has been condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

During the year frozen pre-packed fish of proprietary brands has appeared in the shops where frozen food cabinets are installed. This method of packing, for obvious reasons, has much to commend it.

Milk.

Licences issued to Distributors under the appropriate Milk Regulations for the year 1955 were as follows:-

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) To use the special designation Tuberculin Tested ... | 3 |
| (2) Supplementary licence to use the special designation Tuberculin Tested | 3 |
| (3) Supplementary licence to use the special designation Pasteurised | 1 |
| (4) Supplementary licence to use the special designation T. T. Pasteurised | 1 |

Two distributors retail Channel Island Milk.

In all there are three distributors with premises within the Borough and four distributors retailing milk whose premises are in the Rural District.

Samples.

Milk from all the distributors is sampled and passed on to the Public Health Laboratory Service for testing. Each sample from designated milks is subjected to the statutory tests as prescribed in the regulations. In addition samples of raw milks are submitted for biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli - the test for Brucella Abortus is also carried out.

The number of samples taken during the year was

Satisfactory. Unsatisfactory.

Statutory Test.	51	-
Biological examination.	14	-

Milk is supplied daily, during term, to the Secondary Modern, Secondary Grammar, C. of E. Junior, Guthrie Infant and Holy Trinity C. of E. Junior Schools in the town. St. Mary's Private School is also supplied.

The Wiltshire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the area and are responsible for licensing the one Pasteurisation Plant within the Borough.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOOD (Continued).

Other Sampling.

Chinese Egg Albumen.

Samples of this commodity were taken as a result of enquiries by the Senior Medical Officer, Ministry of Health. The bacteriological tests proved negative and no salmonella organisms were found.

Ice Cream.

All ice cream sold within the Borough is pre-wrapped and no premises are registered for the manufacture of ice cream by cold or hot mix.

There are 17 premises registered for sale and storage of ice cream.

CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD PREMISES IN TRADES.

The various businesses within the Borough are as follows:-

Bakers	3
Confectioners	9
Cafes	3
Butchers	7
Pork Butcher and Preserved Foods	1
Fishmongers	2
Fried Fish Shops	2
Grocers	13
Greengrocers	5
	<hr/>
	45
	<hr/>

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 154.

During the year a successful prosecution under the provisions of the above Act was undertaken.

SHOPS.

No statutory action has been necessary under the Shops Act, 1950, shops being inspected from time to time.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 - 1938.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, which are required to be furnished by Section 128 (3) of that Act, with respect to the matters under Parts I and VIII which are administered by the District Council.

PREMISES.	NO. ON REGISTER.	INSPECT- IONS.	WRITTEN NOTICES.	PROSECUT- IONS.
1. Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be en- forced by L.A.	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	31	48	4	NIL
3. Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A. (Excluding Out-Workers Premises).	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL:	31	48	4	-

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 - 1938. (Continued).

2 cases in which defects were found.

<u>FOUND.</u>	<u>REMEDIED BY L.A.</u>	<u>PROSECUTIONS</u>
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Want of cleanliness	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp.	-	-	-
Inadequate vent.	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of } floors.	-	-	-

Sanitary Conveniences.

(a) Insufficient.	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	5	5	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-

One Outworker is registered under Section 110.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following is a summary of the year's work in accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935-51:-

Dwelling houses inspected.	298
Re-inspections and visits.	168
Inspections for Housing Records.	203
Registered and Licensed premises inspected	56
Miscellaneous sanitary duties involving visits.	170
Complaints received and inspected.	65

Samples taken.

Number of samples of final effluent taken at the Sewage Disposal Works.	1
Number of samples of tank effluent taken at the Sewage Disposal Works.	-
Number of samples of raw spring water for Bacteriological examination.	24
Number of samples of chlorinated water for Bacteriological examination.	36
Number of samples of chlorinated water for chlorine content	1
- - - - -	-
Number of new houses connected to main drainage system	41
Number of new houses connected to main water supply.	41
Number of existing houses connected to main drainage system	-
New lengths of drain constructed and tested.	75
Drain and W.C. Obstructions cleared.	29
New W.C.s constructed to existing houses	9
Houses disinfected	1
Houses re-decorated internally	6
Floors repaired or renewed	22
Roofs repaired or renewed	57
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	50
External walls repaired	22
Walls replastered	21
Ceilings repaired or replastered	19
Rainwater pipes and gutters cleared, repaired or renewed	55
W.C. Cisterns repaired or renewed	188
Waste pipes cleared, repaired or renewed	23
W.C. pans renewed or repaired	15
New W.C.s installed to existing houses	6
Minor repairs and miscellaneous	874

